



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akihiro YAMADA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2141

Application No.: 09/649,516

Examiner: L. LUU

Filed: August 29, 2000

Docket No.: 107170

For: PRINTING SYSTEM INCLUDING A PRINTER AND CLIENT DEVICES
CONNECTED BY A NETWORK

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2004

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

In reply to the January 26, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally
elect Group II, claims 8-13, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jude L. Cooney
Registration No. 54,045

JAO:JLC/jfb

Date: February 26, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--